

Mass casualty exercise

Twenty-seven communities, including Fort Huachuca, will participate in a Cochise County-wide emergency response exercise Saturday, from approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Emergency response teams throughout the county will actually deploy helicopters and ambulances to respond to situations and a number of volunteers will be realistically made up to simulate casualties and injuries.

Community members may experience some traffic delays in Sierra Vista or restricted access to Fort Huachuca March 9. Normal emergency services will be available throughout the county while the exercise takes place.

The Fort Huachuca Scout



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Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil
website: huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

Request desktop password

IASOs who have not yet requested a password for their organization's desktop access to 2000 journals and five national newspapers, should contact Natalie Danforth at danforthn@hua.army.mil. For more information, call 533-3041 and ask for the reference librarian.

Opting out of insurance

The Adjutant General Directorate, Military Personnel Records has had a large influx of inquiries pertaining to soldier's modification/declination of their Family Group Insurance. The office is working hand-in-hand with DFAS to have individual pay accounts adjusted based on soldier's election.

All soldiers should ensure that their elections are correct on their Feb 02 LES. For those soldiers who still require assistance to correct their pay account (refunds, stoppage, or modification), provide your S1 a copy of the documentation to forward to the Military Personnel Records Section, ATTN: Sgt. D. Martin (533-5242) or Marty Libby (533-9555).

Tax Center available

Just a reminder that the Fort Huachuca tax center is ready to help with your state and federal tax return. Our peak week is over and we're ready to help you. All military ID card holders are entitled to free tax assistance and electronic filing. Get your taxes done quickly and your refunds back faster. For more information, call 533-1070.

Spouses club meets

The Noncommissioned Officer, Enlisted and Civilian Spouses' Club will meet today at 7 p.m. at La Hacienda. The public is invited to attend.

SAMC induction ceremony

All soldiers and civilians are invited and encouraged to attend the Fort Huachuca Sergeant Audie Murphy Club induction ceremony Friday at 2:30 p.m. at the Greely Hall Auditorium. Music will be provided by the 36th Army Band and the Honor Guard will be providing a color guard. A reception will be held afterwards.

Family Readiness Groups meet

The 11th Signal Brigade Family Readiness Groups will host several meetings in March. The 86th Signal Battalion FRG steering committee will meet at 4 p.m., Monday in the battalion's conference room. The 40th Sig. Bn. FRG steering committee will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday in the battalion's conference room. The 504th Sig. Bn. FRG steering committee will meet at 6:30 p.m., March 20 in the Bastion Conference Room.

On March 27, FRG meetings are set for Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 504th Sig. Bn. at 6:30 p.m. in the company orderly room; 19th Sig. Company at 6:30 p.m. at La Casita restaurant on Fry Boulevard; 69th Sig. Company at 6:30 p.m. at Peter Piper Pizza restaurant on South Highway 92; and 269th Sig. Company at 6:30 p.m. at Murr Community Center.

AFCEA luncheon set

The Southern Arizona Chapter of AFCEA will host its March luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday at La Hacienda's Geronimo Room. Guest speaker is Gary R. Guthrie, technology director of the Information Operations Unit at General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems. Cost is \$8 for the German buffet. For reservations, register online at www.afcea-southaz.org or call Ray Kervahn at 459-3690 or Rich Besselman at 515-5363. This luncheon is sponsored by AFCEA, IEEE, ITEA, NCMA and Old Crows.

By Robert J. Hebert
Scout Staff

In an effort to ensure the survival of the Ramsey Canyon Leopard Frogs, Fort Huachuca wildlife biologists delivered three truckloads of water to Tinker Pond on Feb. 25.

Early that morning, John E. Roberts, wildlife biologist for the Fort Huachuca Environmental Natural Resources Division, was surveying the ponds on post in preparation for fish restocking. Roberts found Tinker Pond with less than one foot of water — endangering the survival of the Ramsey Canyon Leopard Frogs that live there.

The months between November and April is normally the Leopard Frogs' dormant period. Two frogs had dug themselves up out of the mud thinking the seasons had changed early. One frog was already stiff and lethargic and didn't move when pushed with a stick.

Roberts consulted with Sheridan Stone, wildlife biologist, and they agreed that something needed to be done immediately. Funding was located to deliver three water-truck loads to Tinker Pond that same day. The water trucked to Tinker Pond cost approximately \$2,500.

Stewardship of wildlife on Fort Huachuca is a high priority. Cli-



John E. Roberts, wildlife biologist, surveys the dry conditions of Tinker Pond.



Photos by Robert J. Hebert

Gary Wade, ground maintenance worker with EPG NEWTEC, fills Tinker Pond.

mate patterns and human encroachment sometimes pose a hazard to the survival of species. Management of the resources on Fort Huachuca contributes to plant and animal survival and a diversity of species.

As the water was being restored, the two early awakening Ramsey Canyon Leopard Frogs dove to the bottom of the pond and disappeared.

Fire outlook severe, homeowners should prepare now

USDA Forest Service release

HEREFORD, Ariz. — Fire activity over the past week may foreshadow a busy fire season this spring and summer. Low winter precipitation has left lowland grasses completely dry and ready to ignite.

Recent fires in Southeast Arizona, including fires burning as of today, offer a preview of what's to come as temperatures rise, humidity drops and rainfall disappears until the summer monsoon.

Although wildfires occur throughout the year, officials said the size; number and timing of recent blazes are a cause for concern.

"Lack of precipitation has put us in fire conditions typical of May and June, rather than February," said Rene Martinez, acting fire management officer for the Sierra Vista Ranger District, Coronado National Forest.

"We have not seen these fire conditions in several years. This early level of fire activity means there is great concern for a potentially bad fire season," he added.

"Please be very careful when visiting our public lands," Martinez cautioned.

"Those who decide to use a campfire should assure the area is clear of debris, that fire rings are built away from any vegetation that will ignite, and that once users are done with their fire, they extinguish it by using dirt and water. This will require those planning to build fires to carry a shovel and plenty of water.

"Remember, only you can prevent forest fires," Martinez warned.

The Coronado National Forest, which covers 1.8 million acres of mountainous terrain in Southeast Arizona, has had 11 fires on 190 acres since Jan. 1, according to Coronado National Forest dispatch personnel. For the last 10 years, the forest averaged only three fires on 37 acres by this date.

"We're probably about 40 percent of our normal precipitation for this time of year, and, with the unseasonably warm weather and recent winds, we've had quite a large chance of any ignitions starting a wildfire," said Gail Aschenbrenner, Coronado National Forest public affairs officer. "We're keeping our fingers crossed that we'll get more precipitation in the next 30 days."

The fires should serve as a wake-up call



USDA Forest Service photo

The Oversight wildland fire is burning along the crest of Carr Peak and at the head of Miller Canyon as well as along the heads of several canyons on the west side of the Huachuclas Mountains in the Miller Peak Wilderness area.

to homeowners, especially those with homes tucked into forests or grasslands to make their properties more fire resistant now.

Plan for at least 30 feet of defensible space around homes or structures on flat to gently sloping land. Increase the distance if structures are on moderate to steep slopes. Remove all dead standing and dead and downed trees, dead shrubs, and dry weeds and grasses from this space.

Reduce thick layers of pine needles to a depth of two inches. Remove all dead leaves, twigs, cones and branches, from this area as well all dead leaves, branches, twigs and needles still attached to living trees and shrubs to a height of 15 feet above ground. At least once annually, remove all debris accumulated on roofs and in rain gutters on all structures.

Assure firewood and other combustible debris such as wood scraps, grass clippings and leaf piles are located at least 30 feet uphill from houses and structures.

For information about living with fire and



Photo by Robert J. Hebert

The fire is burning more than three miles away from the Fort Huachuca military reservation boundary.

about fire prevention measures people can take to make homes and properties more fire resistant, visit the Sierra Vista Ranger District, Coronado National Forest office at 5990 South Highway 92 in Hereford. Office hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Seminar wargames help shape future Army where intellect leads brawn

By Jim Caldwell
TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — The Army's Training and Doctrine Command is using a series of marathon Seminar Wargames to brainstorm how operational commanders will fight and win in a future major theater of war.

"What we're after is the Transformation of our Army," said Brig. Gen. Michael Vane, Deputy Chief of Staff for Doctrine for TRADOC. "What we've said in the past is that

the basis upon which we fight should start with a new warfighting concept. It must be a concept-based system."

The concept-based approach will span all domains of what the Army expresses in the acronym DTLOMS — doctrine, training, leader development, organizations, materiel and soldiers.

"It's a revolutionary way to think about the future and execute the concepts-based system," Vane said. "We're trying to use the seminar wargames, in general, to get at this idea of the

warfighting concept where the intellectual leads the physical.

"So, before we bend metal, let's find out how this thing fights. We don't want to just make a better tank or a better rocket system. We want to ensure that they all work together to meet the theater CINC's (commander-in-chief) and the maneuver commander's needs."

Vane said that Gen. John N. Abrams,

See Wargames, Page 8

Team Talk

By Brig. Gen. James and Marty Marks
USAIC&FH Commanding General and wife

What a great turnout we had at this year's Fort Huachuca Army Family Action Plan Conference. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Although the local conference is over, this is not the last you will hear about the initiatives developed here. Changes — your ideas — are already underway here at Fort Huachuca.

We have designated a Teen Center for our teens, located next to Burger King. We are putting shelters over our shuttle bus stops. Many more changes are happening right now. Additionally, Marty and I assure you that the issues that are making their way through the next higher level of the AFAP process will be tracked aggressively.

We will keep you informed about the outcome of all of our issues. More to follow.

Now, I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about an issue that is of the utmost importance to me - ensuring the safety of you, our Fort Huachuca soldiers, residents, and employees, as well as protecting our facilities and assets. The terrorist acts of Sept. 11 and America's subsequent military and homeland protection actions impacted all of us here on Fort Huachuca. Our freedom must never again be taken for granted.

It is my duty to make sure the installation is prepared for and able to guard against any possible threat to its facilities and its personnel. I take this responsibility very seriously. My staff and I work constantly to make sure plans and procedures are in place to protect against and to respond to any emergencies.

In fact, several weeks ago, we held an exercise to evaluate and stress some of our procedures. A crack team of experts from commands throughout the Army worked with all of us here on the staff.

Through an imaginary scenario designed to bring all of the post's directorates and offices into play, we fine-tuned some of our procedures to deal with a number of emergencies. After all, every plan needs to be tested to make sure it's going to work.

Another big training event will happen Saturday. In partnership with local and county emergency services, we will conduct a large Cochise County mass casualty exercise. There may be some delays and disruptions both on

and off post, including possible road and/or gate closures and redirected traffic.

In addition, you may notice some very realistic mass casualty scenes and "victims" in make-up at various times and places on post and throughout the county that day. Emergency crews will respond and transport these "victims" to medical facilities throughout the county.

Please be assured this is only an exercise, but this approach is a very realistic way for Cochise County to assess its emergency preparedness. The great cooperation that already exists between our local, county and military agencies will get even better. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

I need to emphasize that it's imperative we maintain our increased level of force protection here on Fort Huachuca. We must not let ourselves be lulled into a false sense of security and become lax about the measures we are taking to safeguard our families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods and ourselves. Please continue to minimize risks by always staying vigilant.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that Fort Huachuca's force protection takes a lot of teamwork. We must all remain aware of our surroundings. Our staff must plan and prepare for all emergencies. Our dedicated soldiers at the gates — Company C, 1st Battalion, 185th Infantry Regiment, the "Comanches" — who sacrificed jobs, homes and families to be here on the front lines guarding our gates, continue to serve proudly and honorably. Please remember to thank them the next time they stop you and check your vehicle and identification. Any personal inconvenience to you is protection for all of us.

Fort Huachuca is well prepared to deal with any challenges because of the collective efforts of the community. I thank each and every one of you for this, and for all you do each day.

On a final note, I'd like to recognize a great soldier. I was driving my personal vehicle Saturday afternoon near the corner of Arizona and Hatfield when I saw a great soldier doing the right thing. I saw a young noncommissioned officer stop and get out of her personal vehicle, grab a trash bag that was lying on the sidewalk and then get back into her vehicle. I don't know who this great NCO was, but I just want to say, "Thank you!" You do us proud.



Lifelong Learning

University begins transition to Web-based textbooks with Resource

UoFP release

The Southern Arizona campuses of the University of Phoenix have begun to introduce a virtual, Web-based distribution center, which will provide students and faculty with the latest, state of the art learning materials.

Initially limited to certain courses in business/technology and graduate education degree programs, the service called rEsourceTM, will deliver curriculum modules, e-texts, self assessments, articles, Web links and multi-media learning materials through a customized web portal.

The university expects that students and faculty will eventually use rEsourceTM as the primary learning tool with a full complement of comprehensive and interactive learning opportunities.

According to Kathy Alexander, the university's vice president, director of Southern Arizona campuses, the university has been fueling this initiative for some months by entering partnerships with such high profile publishers as Thomson Learning, Pearson Education, McGraw-Hill, Course Technology and John Wiley & Sons.

"We view e-texts and electronic publishing as the next step in the evolution of higher education," said Dr. John Sperling, the university's founder and chairman. "Electronic materials and learning materials and learning materials provide multiple advantages to our working adult students who demand not only the most current information, but flexibility in access and usage."

"The future of rEsourceTM in our graduate and undergraduate, technology-oriented business degree programs is especially bright," said Jeff LeHew, who directs business/technology degree programs for the university's Southern Arizona campuses.

"Technology moves too fast for the current two-year cycle of text book updating. A technology company such as Microsoft is constantly developing new product data and plugging it into the Web," said LaHew.

According to LaHew, initial pilot tests of rEsourceTM have shown advantages such as a 30 percent savings over printed textbooks. He added that since most students do their lab work at home, rEsourceTM provides simulations and tutorials at times when timely

access to faculty may not be possible.

Another perspective was offered by Rita Edwards, who heads the campuses' graduate and undergraduate programs in education. She said that rEsourceTM is especially helpful to working adult students re-careering into teaching.

"Using rEsourceTM really helps new educators keep up with their students. Kids today grow up with electronic media and are surprisingly comfortable with technology. With most adults, it's still and acquired skill," said Edwards.

She added that instead of needing multiple textbooks, each having partial information on a subject, rEsourceTM helps one find the information best suited for each class, which can be downloaded as part of the user's own custom file. Further, the links regularly update articles. "It's all very cutting edge, and exactly what our working adult students need."

"Because our degree programs are firmly embedded in current business, management and technology practice, topics are most effectively taught with the most current and relevant information," said Kathy Alexander.

"And yet we understand that the move to an electronic environment, while presenting the most current and dynamic learning experiences, can still be a difficult transition for some students. Months of student feedback sessions have provided input with which we can refine and enhance our website appearance and strategy."

It's important that we continue to work closely with our students and faculty in the development of this new model for learning materials as they will ultimately represent the value of the education and learning materials we provide," said Alexander.

University of Phoenix opened its first Southern Arizona campus in Tucson in 1979. Today, the university serves over 3,000 working adult students annually at campus locations in Tucson, Sierra Vista, Fort Huachuca, Nogales and Yuma.

The largest private university in the country, University of Phoenix has campus locations in 22 states.

Eighty percent of the university's enrollment of over 100,00 are pursuing business and management degrees.

Scout on the Street

Why do you like living in the historic southwest?



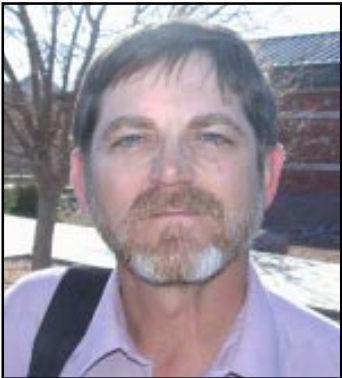
My husband is stationed here. We came from Colorado Springs where there were more trees, but the weather is better here, much less winter. The first thing we did when we arrived was to go shopping in Nogales over the Mexican border.

Monica Gist, AAFES associate, Mini-Mall Troop Store



I love the scenic mountain views with all the snow - they are so different from the Louisiana flat swamps where I'm from. When I hike up Garden Canyon the vegetation changes from desert to pine forest.

Pvt. Jason Zaffuto, HHC, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade



Being a historian, I like to live here, around where it all happened: in the history of the 9th and 10th Calvary, the Tombstone mystique, the Spanish explorers like Coronado, Cochise and Geronimo.

Faron Hall, test officer, Operations Test Command, IEWTD



My wife and I spent the weekend in Bisbee climbing the hills, exploring the historic shops, touring the Copper Queen Mine, visiting the museums, and poking around in the antique stores.

Warrant Officer Joseph McKenzie, Company C, 304th MI Battalion



I like fishin'. And, I speak Spanish. So, I fish all the time in Mexico. Here, you have to have a permit and a license and they tell you what you can catch. There, I just have a good time.

Retired Staff Sgt. James Worrell, bagger, DeCA Commissary



The Fort Huachuca post Museum is well done, very informative, and easy to understand. I have lots of emotions and feelings when I walk the post Cemetery.

Master Sgt. Susan Patchen, operations NCOIC, Company A, 306th MI Battalion

Photos by Robert Hebert

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Photo by Robert J. Hebert

Chaplain (Col.) Juan T. Loya, installation staff chaplain (at right) discusses suicide prevention with participants in Fort Huachuca’s first Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training event Feb. 26-27.

Chaplains host first fort suicide intervention class

**By Robert J. Hebert
Scout Staff**

The Installation Staff Chaplains office introduced Fort Huachuca to Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Feb. 26-27.

Chaplain (Col.) Juan T. Loya, installation staff chaplain and Chaplain (Maj.) Garry Dale, family life chaplain, trained 30 participants, including all Fort Huachuca brigade- and battalion-level chaplains and chaplains’ assistants, several company-level commanders and first sergeants, two Marines, and a dozen other key leaders from fort schools and civilian departments.

When ASIST is presented again in three months the suicide prevention training will also include key leaders and specialists that live in the barracks and have closer contact with the soldiers. There is no cost and registration is limited to 30 participants.

According to Dale, ASIST is the most widely used, acclaimed and researched suicide intervention skills training in the world.

“ASIST provides practical help for caregivers seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide,” he said. “The interactive program includes teaching, discussion, videos and skills practice. It has been refined over 18 years with feedback from over 200,000 participants and 800 active trainers.

“ASIST is a ‘first-response first-aid’ for suicide prevention just like CPR is for medical lifesaving.

“The critical factors are ‘C’ — does the person have a CURRENT suicide plan? Is the person prepared? Does he have

the means, method, an actual planned time to commit the suicide?

“‘P’ — does the person have a PRIOR history of suicide? Has suicide been modeled by her significant others, or has he actually attempted suicide before?

“And, ‘R’ — does the person have any outside RESOURCES? Is she alone? Does he have a support group, family, or friends?

“In other words: ‘C-P-R.’ If all these factors are present, then there is a very high risk of suicide,” Dale said.

Loya emphasized the fact that suicide is a real threat to a large part of the population.

“There are more people dying from suicide than in all of the armed conflicts around the world,” Loya said. “The number dying from suicide is about the same as those dying in traffic accidents. For every suicide, there are approximately 100 times more [people] who injure themselves from non-fatal suicidal behavior. In any year approximately 6 percent of the population has serious thoughts of suicide.”

According to Dale, the two days of intense training went well. Role-playing gave each participant an opportunity to practice being a caregiver and an at-risk client.

“They would each role-play a scenario and work through all phases of the suicide prevention modules,” Dale said. “It is one thing to read about something and try to absorb it and learn it.

See Suicide, Page 5

AFAP issues go forward

**By Stan Williamson
Scout Staff**

The 2002 Army Family Action Plan conference for Fort Huachuca is over. But now, the real work begins.

According to Karla S. Grosinsky, services coordinator for Army Family Team Building/AFAP, the issues, 130 in all, have been sent to Col. Michael Boardman, garrison commander.

“He will form a steering committee consisting of various directors,” she said. The steering committee’s objectives will include receiving status briefings on issues, reviewing all issues for feasibility and measurable objectives, establishing priorities for new issues, reviewing ongoing issues and provide recommendations to the commander for approval.

The committee will also determine the appropriate issues’ status (active, completed or unattainable), and provide guidance and direction in the management of the issues.

Grosinsky said the garrison commander will guide the process within the realities of the Army mission to meet America’s Army family needs. He can either chair or appoint someone to chair the quarterly meetings.

An executive agent, probably the Director of Community Activities, will provide management oversight, maintain liaison with lead agencies, maintain a stewardship role and report status on installation issues.

“The lead directorates will resolve assigned issues by establishing action plans with measurable objectives, research each issue to validate it as appropriate, coordinate the action plan with each support agency if appropriate, provide program and planning guidance, monitor implementation where appropriate, and provide feedback to the community,” she said.

“To date, we have sent the issues and recommendations up and they are currently being reviewed to determine which agency the issue should go to,” Grosinsky said. “I can also tell you some directors have not even waited for the formal process to begin, but have already started looking into the issues related to them and have begun gathering data to determine if and how they can put the recommendations into action.”

As information on the status of the issues becomes available, updated reports will be made in *The Fort Huachuca Scout* newspaper.

Navy to test Raytheon sensors

Raytheon release

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. — The U.S. Navy plans to conduct a series of captive carry flight tests of a Raytheon Company electro-optical sensor system over the Fort Huachuca area Tuesday or Wednesday.

During these tests, the EO sensor will obtain images of the area to aid in evaluating the operation of the system. The EO sensor is a harmless device housed in a pod attached to a Navy A-3 aircraft. Similar to a camera, the device creates a digital image of ground objects and the surrounding terrain.

Most of the flight path during these tests will be over military ranges. The aircraft will fly repetitive image gathering passes over specified areas of interest in order to evaluate performance of the sensor under a variety of collection conditions.

The Navy uses similar EO sensor components in some of its missiles developed by Raytheon Company.

For more information, call the Navy’s Program Executive Office for Strike Weapons and Unmanned Aviation, Public Affairs Office at (301) 757-6316.

Commander’s Hotline

(Editor’s note: The following call was received over the Commander’s Hotline at 533-BOSS.)

Call

I’m calling about the article that was in the newspaper about the Wilcox gate being open strictly for golfers to use the golf course. That is strictly fraud, waste and abuse of my taxpayer’s money. There should not be a special entrance only for golfers.

The security checkpoints were put in place for everybody to go through, and everybody should go through them. Just because a vehicle may be stopped by the wall and everything doesn’t mean a person cannot go over that wall by the golf course and do the damage.

I would like to have the post commander and the commanding general stop the waste, fraud and abuse of building that special entrance only for golfers. There is no sense in it. If they can’t use the security checkpoint, take all the security checkpoints out then and let everybody on.

Response

I want to thank the caller for his observations and comments. I’m sure there are many others who share his views, and I want to give everyone the facts behind this situation.

First, this is not a waste of taxpayer’s money. Fraud and abuse of such resources is of paramount concern to the leaders of Fort Huachuca, especially in these days of limited resources. However, the security of the installation and the safety of the soldiers, civilians and family members here is also of paramount concern.

Every commanding general in the Army is obligated by laws and by Army regulations to assure the well being of installation’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities for the benefit of the soldiers, family members, civilian employees and retirees. Enhancing access to such activities to increase the overall quality of life is well within these mandates.

There are many other reasons for building the separate access road to the Mountain View Golf Course and none of them are strictly for

the benefit of golfers. This road will both enhance the post’s security posture and allow greater access to a major Morale Welfare and Recreational resource for active duty soldiers, retirees and the civilian community.

In October 1996, Fort Huachuca received from the Department of Defense a Waiver Approval and Clarification of MWR Patronage, permitting the MVGC to be opened to the public.

In fact, other military installations are employing similar measures for Army, Air Force Exchange Service; MWR and other facilities that divert traffic away from having to enter the installation. An example is Naval Air Station San Diego in California, where the Commissary and Post Exchange are accessible via a side entry, without having to enter the installation.

Also, the access road will be used as a means of access to the post for emergency (mission) essential personnel during force protection situations where access will be limited. This entry will be secured and is isolated from the rest of Fort Huachuca. There will be a special gate installed to allow for high priority designated individuals to get on the installation during emergency situations and heightened security.

It should be noted that this recommendation came from the Training and Doctrine Command team which recently conducted a Force Protection exercise here.

Another recommendation from this team was to establish a Public Affairs Media Operations Center, isolated from the rest of the installation, but that would still be close to Fort Huachuca and not impede with emergency operations.

In the event a Media Operations Center is needed, it will be located at the MVGC Club House. This road will provide access to the media to the MOC and it will also prevent the media from parking at one of the main entrances to the fort and posing additional traffic flow problems.

According to Dan Valle, director of Community Activities, even prior to Sept. 11, there were problems with allowing the general public access to the MVGC. These problems became more serious in June 2001, when all Army in-



Photo by Robert J. Hebert

Construction crews are preparing a new entrance to the Fort Huachuca Golf Course at Wilcox Avenue and Buffalo Soldier Trail that will allow the civilian population to enter directly from off-post without having to pass through the Main Gate. City of Sierra Vista electricians, Steve Davis and Larry Whitney are wiring the new stoplights. Laborers from A&S Paving, Louis Cuadrado, Augustine Lopez, Jessie Burris, and foreman Albert Soto, are setting steel forms for the concrete road-curbs.

stallations were directed to reinstate gate security.

The events of Sept. 11 all but shut down the golf course. Not even the employees could get on post to operate it, much less the authorized patrons.

Valle said the majority of the MVGC’s loyal patrons are retirees, who are responsible for providing a substantial income for the fort’s MWR operations.

“Therefore, it makes good sense to allow easy access from Sierra Vista for this large group of customers even during times of the highest levels of heightened security,” he said. Also, many noncommissioned officers and officers live in Sierra Vista therefore making the traffic pat-

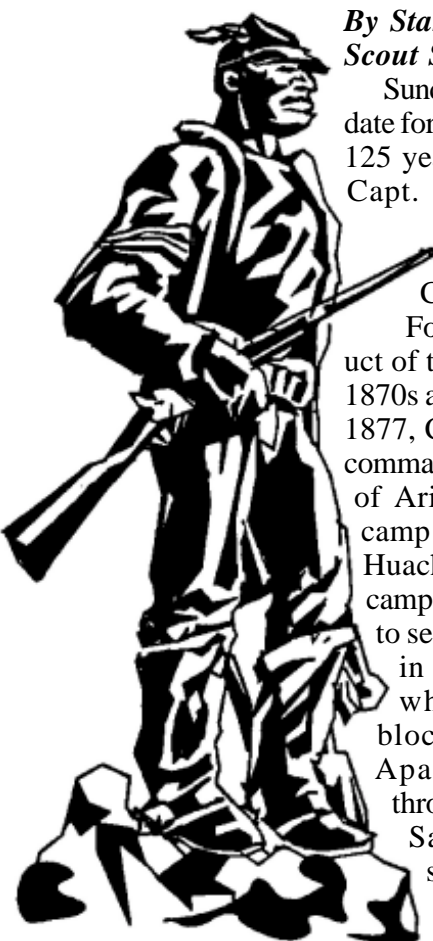
tern flow for customers at the golf course heavier from downtown than from on the installation.

One of the major lessons learned within Department of Defense during the post-Sept. 11 period is to maximize access to support activities (to include MWR activities) during periods when the installations have restricted access.

This road has the added bonuses mentioned above, and the bottom line is the road is not strictly for the benefit of golfers.

This response was compiled from comments made by the Directorates of Installation Support, Community Activities and the Staff Judge Advocate.

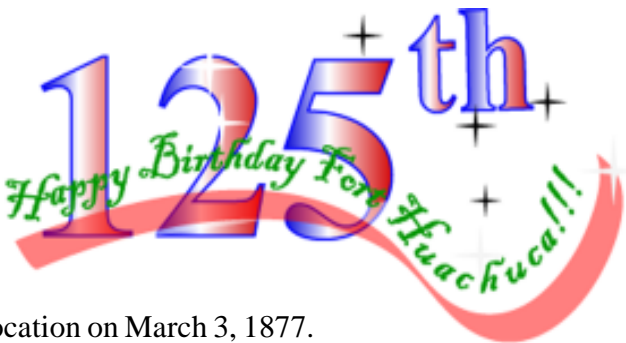
Fort quietly observes



By Stan Williamson
Scout Staff

Sunday marked a significant date for Fort Huachuca. It was 125 years ago Sunday when Capt. Samuel Marmaduke Whitside established a camp for U.S. Army Cavalry here. Fort Huachuca is a product of the Indian Wars of the 1870s and 1880s. In February 1877, Col. August B. Kautz, commander of the Department of Arizona, ordered that a camp be established in the Huachuca Mountains. This camp would offer protection to settlers and travel routes in southeastern Arizona while simultaneously blocking the traditional Apache escape routes through the San Pedro and Santa Cruz valleys to sanctuary in Mexico. Whitside, with two companies of the 6th

Cavalry, set up a temporary camp at the fort's current location on March 3, 1877. The site was selected for its fresh running water, an abundance of trees, excellent observation in three directions, and protective high ground for security against Apache tactical methods. Camp Huachuca was redesignated a fort in 1882. In 1886, Gen. Nelson A. Miles made the Fort his advance headquarters and forward supply base for the Geronimo campaign. Geronimo surrendered in August 1886, practically ending the Apache danger in southern Arizona. The Army closed more than 50 camps and forts in the territory, but Fort Huachuca was retained because of continuing border troubles involving renegade Indians, Mexican bandits, and American outlaws and freebooters. The 10th Cavalry "Buffalo Soldiers" arrived here in 1913 and remained almost 20 years. The 10th Cavalry joined Gen. John J. Pershing in the 1916 expedition into Mexico and, during World War I it was assigned the mission of guarding the United-States-Mexico border. By 1933, the 25th Infantry Regiment had replaced the 10th Cavalry as the main combat unit here. The 25th, in turn, was absorbed by the 93rd Infantry Division during World War II. When the 93rd departed for the Pacific in 1943, the 92nd Infantry Division arrived at the fort for training and subsequent assignment to the European Theater. During the war



birthday



years, the troop strength reached 30,000 men at the fort, which in the 1930s had been described as suitable for a brigade-sized unit of about 10,000 men. At end of World War II, the fort was declared surplus and transferred to the State of Arizona. It was reactivated during the Korean War by the Army Engineers, only to be closed again in 1953. A new era began in 1954 when control passed to the Chief Signal Officer, who found the area and climate ideal for testing electronic and communications equipment. The importance of the fort in the national defense picture grew steadily from that moment. In 1967, Fort Huachuca became the headquarters of the U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command. Then, in 1971, the fort became the home of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School, bringing with it the School Brigade. The Strategic Communications Command became the U.S. Army Communications Command in 1973, subsequently changing to the U.S. Army Information Systems Command in 1984. In October 1990, the fort changed hands with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command became the new host command; the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca now operates the fort. Today, Fort Huachuca is the major military installation in Arizona, and one of prominence throughout the Southwest.

Star-Spangled Banner declared our National Anthem 71 years ago

By Stan Williamson
Scout Staff

The Star-Spangled Banner was officially made the national anthem of the United States, on March 3, 1931, by act of Congress. During the War of 1812, the British, after suffering several serious setbacks by the Americans, went on the offensive in 1814. The Royal Navy had blockaded the Atlantic Coast throughout the war and now began raiding American cities. In the summer, the British raided Washington, D.C., and burned down the Capitol and the White House. In September the British attacked Baltimore, Maryland, but were held off by Americans at Fort McHenry who defended the harbor. The text of the Star-Spangled Banner was written by the American lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key, while he was on board a British frigate during the British bombardment

of Fort McHenry in Baltimore's harbor in 1814. Key had boarded the ship under a flag of truce to arrange for the release of a prisoner held by the British during the War of 1812 and had been temporarily detained by the British during the attack. The sight of the flag still flying on the following morning inspired Key to write the poem. First printed in a handbill and then in a Baltimore newspaper, it soon became a popular song, sung to the tune of the drinking song "To Anacreon in Heaven," which was attributed to the British composer John Stafford Smith. It would take another 117 years until Key's poem would be declared the National Anthem of the United States of America by Congress, but the wait was worth it, for the pride one feels as the anthem is played during the raising of the National Flag, the Stars and Stripes.

Fort Huachuca Fun Facts

By Angelica Pequeño
Scout Staff

Everybody knows Fort Huachuca is a historical goldmine, but here are some facts even some of the expert historians may not know: -The McDonald's located on Fry Blvd. in Sierra Vista was *the first in the world!* To have a drive-thru. It came about when Ft. Huachuca soldiers could drive off base, but not walk due to safety issues, so the drive-thru was born to accommodate them! To see for yourself, take a gander at the plaque they have posted inside the restaurant. -During this week, on March 9, 1973 USAICS conducted its First Basic Officer's Training Course at Fort Huachuca. -Pancho Villa's real name was Doroteo Arango.

During this week, on March 12, 1913 troops G and A of the 5th U.S. Cavalry, arrived in Nogales from Fort Huachuca to maintain law and order on the American side. Q: Beginning publication in 1859, what was Arizonian's first newspaper? A: The Weekly Arizonian out of Tubac, Arizona *That is Fort Huachuca, born of necessity, guardian of the frontier, keeping pace with the times, and looking ahead.* Cornelius C. Smith Jr., Author of *Fort Huachuca: The story of a frontier post*

Spc. Kov named Soldier of the Year

By Spc. Jessica Inigo
Scout Staff

It takes a lot of time and effort to become the soldier of the year, and that's just the hurdle Spc. Thai B. Kov had to jump - making time. "There was never time to study. I work until 5:30 p.m. on most days, so by the time I get home and relax it's after 7 p.m. when I hit the books," Kov said, who was recently named the Soldier of the Year. "My hurdle was studying. I had to make time. Sometimes I just want to relax though, but I still had to make time," he said. As the S-1 personnel clerk for Company A, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion, Kov has strived to excel in all aspects of being a soldier. "This is just a stepping stone. I get the most experience I can to be the best I can be," Kov said, who has only been in the military less than two years. Kov said he hopes to continue this path of excellence and become a noncommissioned officer. "Being an NCO means that I have the opportunity to lead. I may not be totally in charge, but I'll have a say in the way things are done," he said. Kov is originally from Garland, Utah and is the first person in his family to be part of the American Army, as his family is from Cambodia. Kov enlisted in the Army June 16, 2000 and attended Basic Training in Fort Sill, Okla. Later he learned his military occupational specialty at Fort Jackson, S.C. This is



Photo by Spc. Jessica Inigo

his first duty station. Already Kov has received awards for the work he has done here. He's been awarded an Army Commendation Medal and an Army Achievement Medal. Though preparing for boards has taken most of Kov's time, he plans on continuing his education at Cochise College. Eventually he hopes to get a bachelor's in mechanical engineering and a master's in mechanics and design. Kov said he wants to help make cars of the future. Kov said he wanted to thank his friends and other soldiers and NCOs who surround him on a daily basis for helping him make it to the top. "I got a lot of support from the people around me. There were times when I just didn't want to study or do anything, but they would tell me to keep at it, to do it just a little bit."

The Last Time They Met
The Bonesetter's Daughter
Long Eagle

Nonfiction

The Universe in a Nutshell
John Adams
Jack: Straight from the Gut
The Bureau and the Mole
The Final Days
Shadow Warriors
Black Hawk Down
A Child Called "It"
We Were Soldiers Once...And Young
Me Talk Pretty One Day
Submarine
The Lost Boy
A Man Named Dave

Kudos Korner



Photo by Ted Gaskins

Luz E. China smiles as she is recognized for her outstanding performance on her safety record. Kudos China!

Luz E. China, safety manager of Fort Huachuca's Electronic Proving Ground accepted an award for Outstanding Safety. It was the second year in a row that EPG received an award for outstanding safety record. The award was presented during the Environment and Saafety Directorate's first quarter Safety Occupational and Health Advisory Council meeting at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. EPG at Fort Huachuca has an outstanding safety record for no lost-time accidents or 2001. It is a significant accomplishment and takes a dedicated effort by management, safety and the workforce to go an entire year without a lost-time accident.

Fort names Rubin Civilian of Month

Fort Huachuca named Elisa K. Rubin of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 11th Military Intelligence Brigade as the installation Civilian of the Month for February. Rubin serves as a security assistant for Personnel Security and deals with a wide variety of personnel situations and operations that are time sensitive and high volume. She conducts security screenings of military and civilian personnel security files to ensure appropriate clearances and accesses are granted for the position to be filled. She was awarded the Knowlton Award last year for dedicated support to the Army Reserve and National Guard students. Rubin constantly ensures that the needs of the Enlisted Students and the supported battalions are fulfilled. She processes between 360 and 400 new students a month. She is personally responsible for conducting record checks on those students and determining if they have the appropriate security clearance to attend class. The holdover lists for students needing clearances are the smallest they have been for several years due to the dedication of Rubin.

Rubin receives the use of a car for one month from Lawley Chevrolet; gift certificates from Sierra Vista merchants; a desk plaque from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; a Morale, Welfare and Recreation certificate for lunch or dinner from a Fort Huachuca establishment; a wall plaque from the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce; and her name, as Civilian of the Month, posted at the Main Gate. Other nominees included John F. Cutter, Directorate of Installation Support; Lynette A. Simon, U.S. Army Signal Command, G3; Victoria Suzette Krusemark, U.S. Army Garrison Command; Carloman A. Flojo, Medical Activity Command; Berta Bustamante, MEDDAC; and Michelle Wilson, MEDDAC. Nominate your deserving employee for Fort Huachuca Civilian of the Month. Per FH Reg 690-5, all permanent appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund employees are eligible with the exception of employees officially assigned as supervisors (GS-10 and above) and senior executive service personnel. For more information, call CPAC at 533-5282.

Best Sellers available at Post Library

Library release

The Fort Huachuca Main Post Library offers readers several titles form The New York Times' Best Sellers list.

Fiction

Skipping Christmas
Violets are Blue
Journey Through Heartsongs
The Cat Who Went up the Creek Under Fire
One Door Away from Heaven
The Corrections
Basket Case
The Oath
The Millionaires
The Summons
A Bend in the Road

ASC speaker grabs audience’s attention with dramatic ‘visual aid’

By Staff Sgt. Gary Watson
NCO, ASC PAO

When Bill Henderson, a retired U.S. Marine Corps captain, made his presentation at the Army Signal Command Prayer Breakfast Feb. 27 at Fort Huachuca, he used a stunning personal “visual aid.”

After some brief preliminary remarks delivered while walking about the stage in the auditorium at Greely Hall, he sat down and removed his trousers — and his legs. The audience gasped as the bilateral amputee unstrapped the two prostheses that allow him to walk normally despite having both legs amputated below the knee.

Henderson, a member of the First Baptist Church in Sierra Vista, told the crowd he used the attention-getter, not to elicit sympathy but to make the point about being prepared for whatever may happen, particularly in the wake of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. His injuries were the result of an enemy mortar round exploding on his right instep in South Vietnam.

“Whatever happens to you is just preparation for what is going to happen to you,” he said. “God has something for you to do.”

He stressed being prepared, both for life’s challenges and for eternity. “If you in communications have not done your job properly, someone is going to bleed.”

“How big is your God?” he asked. “Are you going to spend eternity in smoking or nonsmoking?”

He said he had accepted Jesus Christ as his savior years before he went into combat, and that he had been prepared to

die when the mortar hit. “When you are between a rock and a hard place, it’s good to remember who your rock is,” he said. Noting that when he joined the Marine Corps, they encouraged Marines to make their peace with God long before they entered battle, he said that a combat environment is not the place to begin thinking about weighty and philosophical things.

He said after his presentation that he had this message to those who serve under the Army Signal Command: “Be prepared to meet God at any instant; be prepared to move up or down the chain of command at least two places.”

“Life is dynamic,” he said, “but the Gospel is the Gospel.” After a tragedy, he said, “God can put us back together and use us. ... Most Christians never access the power that God has reserved for them.”

Post holds National Prayer Breakfast

The Fort Huachuca National Prayer Breakfast will be held here at LaHacienda at 6 a.m., Wednesday.

Guest speaker is Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) David Hicks, Deputy Chief of Chaplains for the Army.

Each year, a National Prayer Breakfast is conducted at the White House and throughout the armed forces. Since the early 1970s, Fort Huachuca has conducted an annual National Prayer Breakfast in concert with the White House and military installations through the nation. We gather to acknowledge our individual spiritual needs and to petition God’s continued blessing on our country.

Cost for the breakfast is \$3. Call 533-4748 or 533-4755 for tickets and information.

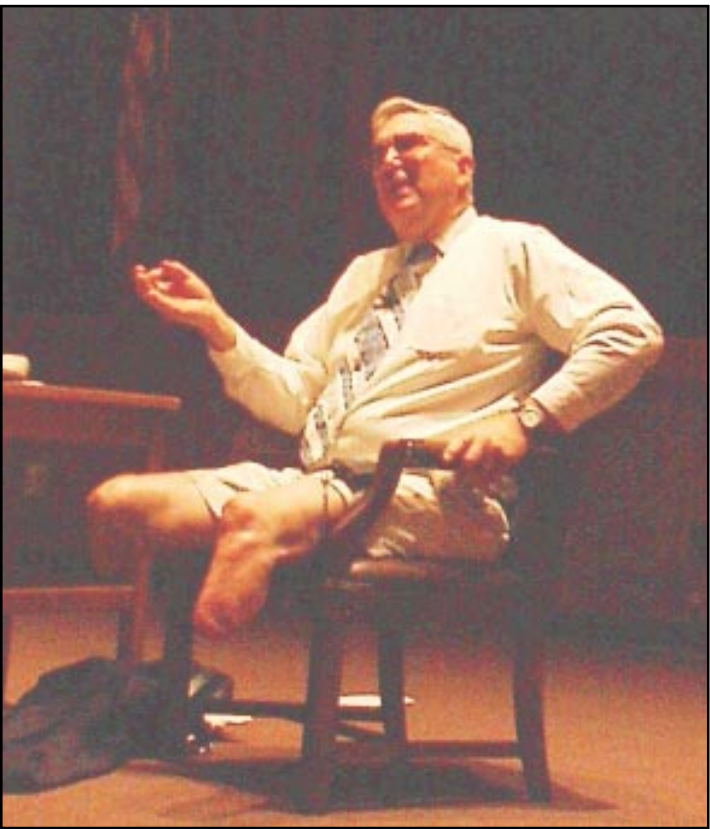


Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Watson

Bill Henderson sits in a chair speaking to the audience at the Feb. 27 Army Signal Command Prayer Breakfast at Greely Hall. He lost both legs below the knee from an enemy mortar round in South Vietnam.

Suicide from Page 3

And, it is another to actually practice those skills that you have learned.

“ASIST is an improvement on and builds on the traditional Army method of suicide prevention: 1) know the warning signs — depression, lowered work performance, alcohol or drug abuse, withdrawal, a death of a significant other, isolation, or giving-away a prized possession, then, 2) report it to a supervisor. Traditionally there were no practical prevention skill.

“The new method says ‘Yes, report to your supervisor. And, you don’t have to be a chaplain, clinician, or social worker. Any of you can provide effective intervention after this two-day ASIST workshop.’

“You can see if a person is genuinely at-risk. You will be taught to estimate the level of risk. You will learn the appropriate action for each risk-level: high risk, immediate response — take the person at high risk immediately to a mental health professional; medium risk, appropriate

response — every case will be different and difficult to assess, take the person to the chaplain or other mental health professional; and low risk, negotiated response — negotiate a verbal or written contract for the person to seek help with a chaplain or other professional, or make an appointment with a professional for the person and give him/her the time-off from work to attend that appointment.”

Supporting people to choose life when painful experiences prevent them from seeing a way

forward begins with you. Most people considering suicide signal their distress and their intentions. Training can help us see and respond to these invitations for help.

ASIST training provides the confidence to ask about suicide when we become concerned about someone’s safety. ASIST training provides the tools to help prevent the immediate risk of suicide. For information on the next ASIST training, call the Installation Staff Chaplain’s office at 533-4911.

Community Updates

2002 post phonebooks available

The 2002 Thunder Mountaineer phone books/guides and CD-Roms are now available at the Public Affairs Office (Building 21115) on Brown Parade Field across from the gazebo. Unit or office representatives should call Pat Dillingham, editorial assistant, at 533-1850 with the number of copies desired.

AG functions move

The Adjutant General Directorate has moved the Strength Management Division from Building 41420 to the second floor of Building 41421. The temporary numbers are 533-9559 or 533-9563. Personnel Operations Division and Enlisted/Officer Promotions has also moved and is now located in Rooms 9 and 10 of Building 41330. The temporary number is 533-1503. AG apologizes for any inconvenience. For more information, call Dan Obeso, chief of Personnel Services Division, at 533-5242.

Immunization hours change

Effective immediately, all immunizations and injections provided by the Adult Family Care Clinic of Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center will be provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. only. Patients should direct questions or concerns to the nursing staff of the Adult Family Care Clinic.

Foreign teens need you

Pacific Intercultural Exchange is looking for 21 caring Arizona families to host high school students from Belgium, Brazil, China, Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan. These high school students will begin arriving in August to spend the coming semester or school year attending the local high school. Students are prescreened, speak English and look forward to learning about our culture while teaching us about their country. They have medical insurance and their own spending money. Host families provide a loving home, meals and a place to study. Host families are not paid, but may be able to claim a \$50-per-month charitable contribution on their income tax. For more information, call PIE at 1 (800) 732-5929.

ID Card Section reduces hours

Due to an extreme shortage of personnel, the ID Card Section, Adjutant General Directorate in Building 41420, will be closed daily from noon to 1 p.m. until further notice. For more information, call Deborah McWhorter at 533-1608.

Scholarship applications available

Huachuca Mineral and Gem Club scholarship applications are available at Buena and Tombstone High Schools’ counselors’ offices. The \$500 scholarships are available to graduating seniors who are going to attend an Arizona college or university majoring in any earth science area, including, but not limited to: agri-

culture, mining, geology, geography, forest service, mining engineering, archeology, anthropology, art majors in lapidary or silversmithing, gemology, etc. Applications must be postmarked by April 20. For more information, see your school counselor or call Susie Walker at 458-0847. Mail applications to Huachuca Mineral and Gem Club, P.O. Box 1596, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635, Attn: Scholarship Committee.

Range closures

Today	AF, AG, AM, AW, T1, T1A and T2
Friday	AF, AG, AM, AW, T1, T1A and T2
Saturday	AF, AG, AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Sunday	AF, AG, AU, AW, T1, T1A and T2
Monday	AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AS, AU, AW, AY T1, T1A, T2
Tuesday	AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AS, AU, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Wednesday	AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AS, AU, AY, T1, T1A, T2
March 14	AA, AB, AC, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AS, AU, T1, T1A, T2
March 15	AA, AB, AC, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AS, T1, T1A, T2
March 16	AB, AU, T1, T1A, T2
March 17	AU
For more information, call Range Control at 533-7095.	

Federal Jobs Workshops

Federal Jobs Workshops are offered to explain subjects such as What is Federal Government Employment, How To Use the Internet To Find Out Where Government Jobs Are Located, Federal Jobs Benefits, Federal Pay Scales, Interpreting a Federal Job Advertisement, Federal Applications, How to Apply for a Government Job, Veteran’s Preference, The Selection Process, RESUMIX Procedures, and Outlook on Opportunities. The public is invited to attend. All Federal Jobs Workshops are held in Building 22420 from 8 to 10 a.m. No reservation required. The public is invited to attend. Workshops are set for Friday, April 12, May 10, June 7, July 12, Aug. 16, Sept. 13, Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 6. For more information, call Thomas L. Hapgood at 533-7314.

Free business seminars

University of Phoenix is hosting a series of free seminars during March at its main campus, 5099 East Grant Road. All are open to the public. Call 520-881-6512.

Seminars include: Recession Proof Your Career, 6-7:30 p.m., Monday; World Class Service, 8:30-10 a.m., Wednesday; and Designing a Reliable Security Solution, 6-7:30 p.m., March 21.

Free parenting classes

The Tombstone School District will host a free three-part Common Sense Parenting class to help parents be more positive with their children and to use more effective discipline.

This class is limited to 10 participants and is intended for parents with children ages 3-16. The class consists of three sessions and will be offered on Tuesday, March 14 and 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. at WJ Meyer School in Tombstone. Babysitting and dinner will be provided.

To register for this class, call Bill Wright at 457-3371.

Winter visitor program

The Winter Visitor program continues at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 9 a.m., Wednesdays with light refreshments at 8:30 a.m. The public is invited to the free program. Tom Stoney is scheduled to discuss Buffalo Soldiers on Wednesday, with a tour of the Nature Conservancy at Ramsey Canyon set for March 20. For more information, call Jim Behnke at 803-6810 or Ron Witt at 459-0929.

Retirement dinner planned

The Directorate of Installation Support invites the Fort Huachuca community to farewell Nancy Small during a retirement dinner March 29. Small is retiring after 45 years of government service. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. at The Grill in the Pueblo Del Sol Country Club.

Dinner menu includes choice of charbroiled flank steak or chicken piccata, with roasted garlic whipped potatoes, fresh vegetable, gourmet salad, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea. Anyone wishing to order fish may do so with advanced notice. Cost is \$20 per person including gratuity. RSVP to Terri at 533-3349 or Suzi at 533-3896 by March 20. All reservations must be paid for by March 20.

Local AUSA chapter meets

The local Association of the U.S. Army chapter meets March 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Sun Canyon Inn. Guest speaker is retired Col. Tom Hessler, mayor of Sierra Vista, who will provide members with an update on past and future activities.

Hessler will also provide information on the AUSA Region meeting planned for April 24-27 at the Windemere Hotel in Sierra Vista. The guest speaker for the AUSA Region meeting

on April 25 is retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, AUSA president and former Army Chief of Staff.

According to Col. William A. Carrington, commander, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade, the March 20 meeting is open to all AUSA members, guests and the general public. Carrington said the food is free and the information and partnering forum is a great way to meet others in the community and have fun.

Library retirement luncheon

The Fort Huachuca Main Post Library invites the community to join its retirement luncheon to say farewell

to Chris Hurd, Gerald “Jerry” Thorson, Priscilla Linden and Marcia Drehobl. The luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., March 22 at La Hacienda’s Boots and Saddles Room. Cost is \$7.75 for the hot buffet and salad bar, or \$6.75 for hot buffet only. Cost includes beverage and gratuity. RSVP to Anita Lewis at 533-4100.

JITC hosts annual conference

The Joint Interoperability Test Command will host the

12th Annual Interoperability Conference April 8-11 in Building 61801, Greely Hall Auditorium (Room 1215). The conference attracts about 300 attendees from across DoD and is an important forum for identifying critical interoperability issues that influence and impact our support to the warfighters.

Maj. Gen. Daniel M. Dick, Director for Strategy, Requirements and Integration (J8), US Joint Forces Command, is the conference keynote speaker. This year’s theme is “Current Interoperability Initiatives.”

The conference fee is \$15, if registration as well as payment is received by March 22. If payment is not received by this date, the conference fee will be \$20. In addition to the conference, JITC will host an Icebreaker Social 6-9 p.m. on April 8 costing \$10 per person; a Dinner Social 6-9 p.m. on April 9 costing \$20 per person; and a golf tournament 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on April 11, costing \$25 per person.

Additional conference details and registration information can be found on the JITC Web page at http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil/iop_conf/2002/iop_con.htm. For more information, call Marine Master Gunnery Sgt. Tom Fredericks at 538-4367 or Elaine Perkins, JITC visitor support, at 538-5429.

Boy Scouts rappel off Dagoon Mountain cliffs

By David Tyler
Scoutmaster, BSA Troop 431

Boy Scouts from Fort Huachuca’s BSA Troop 431 overcame their fears recently as they learned to rappel off cliffs in the Dagoon Mountains.

Fourteen Scouts from Troop 431 and two Webelos from the fort’s BSA Pack 429 learned the basics of rappelling, safety, knot tying and first aid skills at a recent campout.

Joseph Schafer, an Assistant Scoutmaster with the troop said, “What a great confidence builder for these young men.

“Several were nervous about scaling down a 50-foot cliff but by days end they all were excited about their accomplishments and could not wait to get in line to rappel again.”

The Scouts spent part of each day working on merit badge and rank advancement skills. A nature hike led by two Eagle Scouts taught junior Scouts to identify wildlife signs and local plants.

However, the highlight of the weekend was definitely the rappelling.

Scout Jason Clark said, “Rappelling was fun. We learned basic rappel techniques, knots and safety. I hope we get to do this again.”

Mike Oliver, one of the Troops Assistant Scoutmasters said, “ We use events such as rappelling to tie together several skill such as knots, safety, leadership and teamwork.



Courtesy photos

Rappel master Mike Oliver teaches First Class Scout Troy Croff how to set himself up to rappel down a cliff. Rappelling taught Scouts how to face and overcome obstacles, teamwork and leadership.

The Troop’s older Scouts selected the rappel site, tied the rope onto the anchor points and taught newer Scouts how to inspect and wear the rappel gear.

The Scouts would like to thank Mike Higgs and his staff at the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade warehouse for their great support.

David Tyler, Troop 431’s Scoutmaster said, “Mike and Bud [Toepfer, Brigade S4] have always provided outstanding support to the fort’s Scouting program. Their support has allowed our Scouting program to complete many activities.”

For information on Fort Huachuca Boys Scout programs, call David Tyler at 533-6603 or 458-5712.

Post to celebrate Passover

Chapel release

The holiday of Passover, Pesakh in Hebrew, begins March 27. This eight-day celebration is one of the three major Biblical festivals.

Pesakh commemorates the exodus from Egyptian slavery. According to the account in the book of Exodus, the Jewish people left in haste, and did not have time for their dough to rise. Therefore, part of the traditional observance includes refraining from leavened food products throughout the eight days. Instead, matza, a flat, unleavened bread, is substituted.

Perhaps the best known aspect of Pesakh is the seder meal, which is held on the first two nights of the holiday. The word seder means “order,” and this ritual meal is a retelling of the story of the exodus through special foods and a written text called the “haggada.”

For example, parsley or other green vegetable is used to symbolize the fact that the exodus took place in the spring. It is dipped in salt water to represent the tears of the Hebrew slaves. The rabbis teach that each person should feel as if s/he personally went forth from Egypt.

The Main Post Chapel will host a kosher seder meal on March 27 at 6 p.m. Reservations are required and must be paid in full by March 20. Cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. There is no charge for single soldiers, E-1 to E-4. Volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up are also needed. For more information or to make reservations, call 533-4748 or 533-2366.

Religious services scheduled

Roman Catholic schedule: (all at the Main Post Chapel unless noted)
Every Wednesday in Lent 11:30 a.m. Mass followed by a Meager Meal
Every Thursday in Lent 5 p.m., Stations of the Cross followed by a Meager Meal
March 9-10 Lenten Retreat
March 12 7 p.m. Penitential Service
March 17 4 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day Celebration and Pot Luck
March 23-24 Palm Sunday, Regular Weekend and Service Schedule
March 28 Holy Thursday, 7 p.m. Solemn Mass and Adoration
March 29 Good Friday, noon Stations of the Cross
5 p.m. Good Friday Service
March 30 7 p.m. Easter Vigil Service
March 31 Easter Sunday, 9:30 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel
11 a.m. at Kino Chapel

Protestant schedule
March 24 Palm Sunday, regular service schedule
March 29 Good Friday, noon at Kino Chapel
March 31 6 a.m. Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, Main Post Chapel followed by light breakfast

Jewish schedule
March 27 6 p.m. Passover (Pesakh) Service and Meal, Main Post Chapel (reservations required)

It takes a K-9 to make installation security complete, NCO says

By Jim Caldwell
TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — Security preparations for installations isn’t complete unless they include military working dogs, or so believes the noncommissioned officer who oversees the K-9 program in Training and Doctrine Command.

“I was almost in shock when I got here and found out we didn’t have dogs at Fort Monroe,” said Sgt. 1st Class Tim Dawson, who oversees the military working dog program in TRADOC’s provost marshal’s office. “Being a dog guy, I just don’t think we have enough.”

Dawson recently submitted a request through Army channels to provide dogs at the six TRADOC installations that do not have them. If his request is approved immediately, it would still take several months before those posts received their dogs.

One reason for the delay is that kennels and training areas have to be built. Another is that it takes about 100 days to train a dog as a patrol-bomb dog, or a patrol-drug dog. Then there are all the Army major commands, the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps installations and ships that also need working dogs.

“A lot of people have a misconception that dogs can do drug and bomb detection at the same time,” Dawson said. “They probably could, but if you’re doing a search and the dog responds, how do you know whether he’s found a bomb or drugs? If you don’t know and you try to open a container your life could be on the line.”

Dog handlers receive training once a year from explosive ordnance disposal personnel.

Even with that training, Dawson said, “If my life’s on the line, I’ll mark it (suspected bomb), evacuate the area and call somebody else. I don’t get paid extra money to try to take stuff apart.”

Except for a four-year tour as a drill sergeant when the Military Police School was at Fort McClellan, Ala., Dawson has worked with military dogs since 1985. He was trained as a handler at the Defense Department school at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio.

In fact, he was the first sergeant of the

school before he arrived at Fort Monroe in July 2001. He had served a year and a half as a dog trainer superintendent there before moving up to first sergeant.

Another of Dawson’s job is to certify that dog teams in TRADOC are ready for field work. He says he takes a common sense approach to the certification process.

“I plant training aids for the team to find, some of them in the ceiling,” Dawson said. “If the guy happens to see it, that’s all right. They’re a team, right? A dog doesn’t have to do everything by itself.”

At the TRADOC posts that have military dogs, there are a total of 24 more dogs than trained handlers. The dogs are authorized and not extras.

“I can’t get enough handlers,” Dawson said. “It’s real tough to compete with the outside market, even more now than pre-Sept. 11.

“A bomb dog handler getting out of the Army can realistically find work starting at around \$45,000 a year. And that’s the low end.”

The extra dogs are being taken care of, exercised and trained where they are assigned while they wait for new handlers.

“Extra dogs don’t leave the post that they’re assigned to,” Dawson said. “When I first came into the program back in 1985, dogs would ship with their handlers to a new location.

“It got pretty expensive to ship a dog on the airlines. Plus, a lot of units didn’t want to lose the dog asset.”

Over the years, he has learned that most military dogs are not vicious.

“Most dogs are pretty civil and can be around people,” Dawson said. “They have to be that way because a lot of the bomb dog missions that we go on we’re working for the Secret Service. Those guys are running around a scene like crazy.

“There are more dogs that you can actually come up and pet, and still do attack work and bomb or drug work.”

Dog teams from Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Gordon, Ga., Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Fort Sill, Okla., are in Utah providing security for the 2002 Winter Olympics. A dog team each from

Fort Bliss, Fort Gordon and Fort Benning, Ga., drew security assignments for the Super Bowl in New Orleans.

In fact, dogs can be adopted when they reach the end of their working life, which is 11-12 years for German Shepherds.

The German Shepherds may need a good deal of medical care when they’re retired, however.

“The Shepherds are so heavy and so wide and long that they get hip problems, especially with what we do,” Dawson said.

His favorite breed of dog to work with is the Belgian Malinois. A Malinois is about the same size as a German Shepherd, but weighs around 50 pounds.

“Great dog. A super, super high-drive dog,” Dawson said.

“The military is probably leaning more toward the Malinois because they have few problems with hip displacements that German Shepherds tend to get.

“I love the Malinois because they hit hard, they bite hard and they’re super fast.”

The Army, Air Force and Marines use the German Shepherds and Malinois, he said. The Navy uses smaller breeds of dogs so they can get around in a ship’s cramped quarters.

Whatever breed of dog the services use, the dogs themselves work for various incentives.

“Most dogs work for a ‘Kong,’ a rubber



Photo by Spc. Gregory Morris

Staff Sgt. Kirby West, 40th Military Police Detachment, Fort Sill, Okla., and Sadou inspect a vehicle at an entrance to the installation. Fort Sill is one of nine TRADOC installations where security is boosted by military dog teams.

ball shaped like a beehive,” Dawson said. “It bounces crazily over the ground when you throw it.

“Some dogs are trained with a food reward and they get a kibble if they find what they’re looking for. For some dogs it’s squeaky toys. Some dogs go for a towel or rubber hose so they get to play the tug game with their handlers.

“Five bucks for a Kong. Cheap pay for the added security dogs give us,” Dawson said.

AAFES, consumer safety commission recall Whirlpool dehumidifier

AAFES release

DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Whirlpool Corp., of Benton Harbor, Mich., is voluntarily recalling about 1.4 million dehumidifiers. The dehumidifiers can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Whirlpool has received 13 reports of the dehumidifiers overheating and causing fires, three of which resulted in extensive property damage. No injuries have been reported.

The recalled dehumidifiers were sold under the Whirlpool, Kenmore and ComfortAire

brand names. The dehumidifiers are white plastic, about 2-feet high and have a front-mounted water bucket.

They have serial numbers that begin with QG, QH, QJ, QK or QL. The serial number can be found on a label located on the wall behind the water bucket.

The serial number can also be found on the white tag on the box of the dehumidifiers. Dehumidifiers with water buckets located in back are not involved in the recall.

AAFES, along with department and appliance stores nationwide, sold the dehumidifiers from February 1997 through December 2001.

“Customers who own on of these dehumidifiers should stop using them and unplug them immediately,” said Pradip V. Mehta, Chief of AAFES Quality Assurance.

Customers living in CONUS should contact Whirlpool to arrange for a free repair at (866) 640-7139 anytime or visit the firm’s Web site at www.repair.whirlpool.com.

Overseas customers should contact Whirlpool at their Web site at www.repair.whirlpool.com, or they can contact local Whirlpool service representative. Local exchanges can assist in locating the Whirlpool service representative.

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PX, Commissary councils resume meetings after 15-month hiatus

By Robert J. Hebert
Scout Staff

Post Exchange and Commissary Council meetings resumed on Fort Huachuca Feb. 26 at Murr Community Center after a 15-month hiatus.

There were 18 people in attendance in addition to PX, Commissary and Community Activities staff, and council board members.

AAFES general manager, Dave Nelson; Commissary store director, R. D. Fischer; Cynthia Trout; and Judy Barton sat on the two boards chaired by retired Lt. Col. James A. Chambers, deputy garrison commander.

Also in attendance were Dan Valle, director of Community Activities (formerly known as Morale, Welfare and Recreation); Marshall H. Bickerstaff, PX Main Store manager; and Marty Marks.

The resuming of Post Exchange and Commissary Council meetings are an outgrowth of Commanding General, Brig. Gen. James A. Marks' emphasis on quality of life initiatives at Fort Huachuca.

Every three months the Post Exchange Council and Commissary Council will meet at the Murr Community Center to discuss issues that concern everyone on Fort Huachuca and those of the military retirees and their families in the surrounding communities.

The councils will meet on the last Tuesday of the month beginning at 1 p.m. in the Murr Community Center Buffalo Ballroom. Meetings for 2002 are set for May 28, Aug. 27 and Nov. 26. The quarterly Post Exchange Council will meet at 1 p.m. and the quarterly Commissary Council will meet at 2 p.m.

These councils are voluntary and open to all interested parties from every corner of the fort's community. Quarterly council meetings are held to hear community concerns in order to improve the PX and Commissary. If you have questions concerning products, pricing, store operations or suggestions on new products or changes in store operations, contact your unit's PX/Commissary Council representative to have your thoughts and ideas presented at one of the meetings, or you may attend yourself.

Post Exchange Council

Q: Why do some of the PX clerks seem so knowledgeable about what products you have and their locations?

A: The PX recently completed a long renovation project. To keep from closing the store, we had to continually move merchandise to temporary locations in order for the contractor to complete his work. It was difficult for our customers and our associates to keep up with. Please do not hesitate to contact one of our managers if you are ever unhappy with the service or answers you receive. We always have a manager on duty. (CLOSED)

Q: What kind of training does the PX have for associates and customer service personnel?

A: There are a variety of training methods that are based on the duties and responsibilities of our associates. Types of training includes new hire orientation, on-the-job-training, customer service and product knowledge, formal classes taught locally or at locations around the country. In addition, we have a fulltime Learning Facilitator on our staff. (CLOSED)

Q: Why are the T-shirts and jerseys so expensive? Aren't the clothes supposed to be priced for the enlisted and for young families?

A: Our customers have a wide variety of tastes and interests. Our competitors target a certain segment of the market and stock the appropriate merchandise. For example, discount stores will carry only inexpensive clothing while department stores carry items with higher price points. If we were to choose one of these strategies we would ignore large parts of our customer base. Instead, we try to offer an assortment that meets the needs of a diverse group of people. In our stores you will find inexpensive jeans as well as brand name jeans at a higher price. The clothing business is a tough business and our customers have a wide range of tastes. We watch it closely and make changes based on what is selling and what is not. (CLOSED)

Q: Why are Easy-Spirit shoes being discontinued?

A: We'll take a look at this line to see how it is selling. Our computer system tells us what is selling and what is not selling. With space always at a premium we have to insure there is demand for the merchandise. We consider your dollar a vote. If you are buying a particular item it basically means you are voting for that item to be carried in our store. If you are not buying it then we need to find something else to meet your needs. (OPEN)

Q: Will you order larger and more comfortable women's sizes like Koret?

A: We'll take a look at this brand to see what we can do. There are a number of branded and

private label items in many sizes. The next time you are in the store please discuss with the department manager what you are looking for." (OPEN)

Q: Why is the PX so small? How does it compare to other installations?

A: Our PX is medium in size compared to other installations. The size of a PX depends on the size of the installation and its customer base. This formula is similar to what is used off post. For example, it is not a coincidence that large cities have several malls and a small town has only one mall. (CLOSED)

Q: Why did the old, smaller PX have nicer quality?

A: All indicators are that the renovation has been very successful from a customer perspective. Sales at the PX are up significantly despite the recession and challenges brought about by the 911 tragedy. The only changes to the stock assortment have been to increase it. (CLOSED)

Q: Will you bring back Double-Coupon-Days again?

A: Let us do some research and find out the particulars. (OPEN)

Q: Will the MI Village Temporary Clothing Sales Facility carry more items, in particular Desert Camouflage Uniforms?

A: The Army controls the DCU inventory. To date, the only MCSS in CONUS it has authorized to stock DCUs is at Fort Irwin where the DCU is the uniform of the day. At this time, we do not anticipate the Army giving us approval to carry this uniform. (CLOSED)

Q: Can the Baskin Robbins stay open later in the summer?

A: We will keep a store open 24/7 if there is business to support it. The key driver for establishing operating hours is "when do our customers use a facility". The single biggest factor affecting our business at the PX Mall is DECA. The PX is busiest when DECA is open for business. Let us review the Baskin Robbins business and see if we can expand the hours. (OPEN)

Q: When are summer goods going to be available?

A: Outdoor Living merchandise is arriving every day and the shelves are filling up as we speak. Live plants are beginning to arrive and will gradually increase as the weather becomes warmer. (CLOSED)

Q: I am concerned about pornography in the Troop Store at MI Village. Why are "Playboy" and "Easy Rider" available near students and children?

A: We reduced these types of magazines significantly approximately two years ago as required by the Military Honor and Decency Act. There is a specific list of publications and other materials that may not be sold on DoD installations. We stock adult publications high up on our fixtures and keep them hidden from view behind a panel. Periodically our customers will move a magazine from its assigned space and place it on a lower shelf. We'll make a concerted effort to return these magazines to their proper location. (CLOSED)

Q: Would you please provide liquid creamers for coffee and other non-fat products at the Mini Mall?

A: Sales of low fat items continue to decline in the grocery industry in general. Typically, our slowest sellers are those that are low fat or sugar free. At the same time, merchandise such as ice cream and chocolate are growing in popularity. We'll talk to our vendors and see what we can do to help you in this area. (OPEN)

Answers to open questions will be provided at the next council meeting.

Commissary Council

Q: Why is the commissary closed when a holiday falls on a Monday?

A: As per Federal Law, we must provide our workers a day off to compensate for the holiday. We are not currently funded to pay holiday pay to keep the store open on holidays.

Q: The commissary seems to run out of fish, meats, vegetables and other produce on Sunday afternoons. Since Sunday is such a huge shopping day, why doesn't the commissary re-stock on Sundays?

A: We will put our focus on improving stockage on Sundays. We receive two deliveries of fish per week and will make every attempt to ensure that the supply is adequate for patron demand. You should expect to be able to purchase the same items on Sunday as you can any other day of the week.

Q: How do you handle special orders?

A: If you have a request for a large volume of one item, placing the order 48 hours in advance allows us to meet your requirements in most cases.



Photo by Robert J. Hebert

Commissary Store Director, R.D. Fischer (center), answers questions during the Post Exchange and Commissary Council meetings on Feb. 26.

If you are ordering an item that is not in stock, and it is an authorized item, the time allowed may be slightly longer. We advise that you buy the case, but can make exceptions.

Q: Why is some of the produce more expensive at the commissary than off post?

A: The private sector uses a program called "loss leader". Meaning, these stores can buy a product and sell it for less because of the profit that they make on all the other items that you may pick up while shopping.

Q: When is the meat butcher available?

A: The meat cutter is on duty during all operating hours of the commissary. He may be busy away from the cutting room, but is always available. Please use the buzzer on the counter, and if no response go to the store managers office or customer service so that one can be paged to serve you.

Q: I really like to shop here on the fort in my own neighborhood. And I don't feel that I can anymore. Why is the produce in the commissary the worst I've ever seen?

A: The produce has improved since we changed produce suppliers. Our Zone Manager required Steve Covington, chief, Defense Subsistence Office, Los Angeles, to visit our store on March 1 to review quality and pricing from our supplier as a result of this meeting. Our goal is to have the "best" quality at the best price available on the market. We are in the planning stages of a customer "produce event" for 30 March. We will have advertising out in the near future.

Q: Can you pull DeCA contracts from vendors that don't fulfill requirements?

A: Yes, we do periodic evaluations of all contracts and all documentation is forwarded to region offices. We also refuse any product that is not satisfactory at the time of delivery if it is detected at that time.

Q: Why do some of the clerks behind the counter gripe out loud about long lines of customers and are unresponsive to customers needs when they can't find a product?

A: This will be addressed and corrected when I go back to the store. All checkers should know where all of our products are. The supervisor will conduct an on the job training refresher course to improve the customer service that you deserve.

Q: Do you personally walk the floor of the commissary?

A: I walk the store first thing in the morning and a full round in the late afternoon to inquire customers comments and note weak spots in stock also. As time allows, I get on the floor as much as possible.

Q: Why have I found spoiled chicken and fish at the commissary?

A: We constantly patrol all items for proper rotation and to see that dates are acceptable. The food inspectors are in the building 5 or 6 days a week to help ensure the quality of all products. If at any time you find an expired product please bring it to our attention and it will be corrected on the spot. If you should not notice this until after you arrive at home, all that is needed is the product and receipt and you will be promptly refunded the money.

Q: The prices on the shelves are sometimes not the same as the cash register. Sometimes there are no prices on the shelf. The checkout clerks don't trust us to tell them the correct price. Why do I have to wait 20 minutes longer to get checked out just because of pricing problems?

A: We change prices twice a month-on the first and the fifteenth. That means changing the prices in the computer and labels on the shelves for the entire store. Sometimes items are deleted,

or phased out. Sometimes a price doesn't get changed on the shelf. The check out clerks should be able to correct a wrong price. Our customer service department will have a commissary master file on hand to locate the proper price to help you save time.

Q: Sometimes sale items are not available in the commissary. Can we get rain checks for those sale items?

A: I've never seen that done in the commissary, I will check into it.

Q: There are many different brands of flavored coffee and flavored chocolate with same three flavors. We want more variety.

A: Provide information on the items you would like to see to the Store Director and we will try to get them, if available.

Q: Why does some desk at Fort Lee get to tell you what you have to carry and what we can buy?

A: Go to our Fort Huachuca commissary supervisors and tell them what you want, then we can suggest it to our buyers.

For more information, go to the DeCA main Web page at www.commissaries.com and select Fort Huachuca for our complete shopping list.

Q: Most of your baggers are wonderful. And, sometimes we have to wait a very long time with some particular baggers. When we ask a cashier to help, she says that this is what always happens and doesn't seem to care. How can I get out of the store without having to do my own bagging?

A: First ask the cashier to ask for her supervisor and the action will be directed to the head bagger. As baggers are not DeCA employees, they are hired under an independent contractor agreement. If it is not resolved, please contact the commissary supervisor on duty.

Q: At other grocery stores we can see the check out registers electronic display. In the commissary the display is facing away from us while items are being rung up. This makes it impossible to discover mistakes until we get home to compare the register list with the items purchased.

A: When your order is being rung up, please advise the cashier to turn the screen so that you can see it if it is not already facing you. We will increase training for our cashiers on produce identification.

Q: We do not have time to shop in the daytime because of military duties. How can we get more hours to shop and get more quality?

A: Tuesdays and Wednesdays we open early (7:30 a.m.) for military and handicap. Saturdays and Sundays are always good days to shop and we continually work on improving quality.

Q: Most of our issues today seem to be related to quality control. Does the commissary have a quality control person? Are products checked on the shelves? Are deliveries examined as they arrive? Are the computer prices compared to the shelf prices?

A: An entire price verification (audit) is performed for the entire store once a month. Discrepancies are corrected. All employees, in particular, the supervisors constantly watch and check for rotation and current dates on product. We also have the Army Vet services in house doing daily inspections of incoming product and product on the sales floor.

Answers to open questions will be provided in the next council meeting.

(Editor's note: In the interest of space, not all of the concerns and issues raised at the PX/Commissary Council meeting are printed.)



Medical Activity Command

To enjoy TRICARE For Life, retirees must update DEERS information

MEDCOM release

Rejection! That’s hardly the experience some 1.5 million jubilant military retirees and their family members expected when Congress voted to create the TRICARE For Life benefit last year for Department of Defense beneficiaries aged 65 and over. Unfortunately, some elderly beneficiaries had TFL claims

rejected because they had failed to keep their eligibility up-to-date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

Now, DoD is taking three steps to fix this problem and ensure that older beneficiaries get the coverage that Congress intended them to have.

First, it is going to go back and pay previously denied claims regardless of “expired eligibility” entries in DEERS records. Claims back to the TFL start date (Oct. 1, 2001) will be reprocessed automatically: no action by beneficiaries or health-care providers is needed.

Second, DoD will continue to pay claims for such beneficiaries until Aug. 1, to give them ample time to establish or renew their eligibility.

Third, it is launching a massive publicity effort to inform over-65 beneficiaries of the absolute necessity of getting and/or keeping their DEERS enrollments up-to-date. (Those who have already had claims rejected have received Explanation of Benefits statements explaining the problem. But those without recent claims need to be informed before Aug. 1.)

DoD policy requires that beneficiaries’ eligibility be reverified every four years. After Aug. 1, beneficiaries who have not

gotten their DEERS status straightened out will be cut off from TFL benefits again, and this time they will stay cut off until they do get their DEERS files up to date.

Officials are concerned about two challenges: how best to get the word out to elderly beneficiaries who may be out of touch with the military and how to help immobile beneficiaries accomplish their reverification.

“We want to ensure that our beneficiaries, some of whom are re-entering the Military Health System, and using TRICARE for the first time, have the best possible experience and receive their rightful benefits.”

Dr. William Winkenwerder

DoD is working with retiree organizations like The Military Coalition and the National Military and Veterans Alliance to reach these beneficiaries and tell them how to update DEERS.

The mechanics of the process are simple enough for beneficiaries that frequent military installations, but may be challenging for those in remote areas or confined to home.

Retirees themselves usually have identification cards of indefinite duration and should encounter few problems with DEERS. However, their family members receive ID cards limited to four years of validity. After four years, DEERS terminates their eligibility for military benefits (including TRICARE) unless they renew their cards.

This is normally done by visiting an ID-card issuing facility at a nearby installation. When the new ID card is issued, the facility

“Word of mouth may be the best way to alert them,” said a U.S. Army Medical Command spokesman. “We hope that people who do hear about this will pass the word on to any elderly beneficiaries they know who might be homebound and might not get the news directly.”

But media popular with retirees will also be used, and

automatically notifies DEERS to renew the recipient’s eligibility for military benefits. (Note: ID-card facilities are operated by military personnel officials — not by TRICARE or military medical officials.)

Problems can arise for individuals unable to travel to a military installation. DoD officials are exploring how to make this process easier for such people.

Meanwhile, an Army Medical Command TRICARE expert says the best advice is for immobile beneficiaries — or those caring for them - to contact the closest ID-card issuer by phone, explain the problem, and work out a personalized solution.

Policies and options vary depending on service and location. In some cases, IDs can be issued by mail for genuinely homebound beneficiaries, if someone can secure a photo of the individual.

A list of nearby ID-card offices can be obtained by doing a search (by city, state or zip code) DoD Web site <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsrl/>. More information on updating DEERS is found at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSaddress/>. Or call 1-800-361-2620.

For information on TRICARE for Life, visit the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>; or call the TRICARE Information Center, toll-free, at 1-877-363-5433 (1-877-DOD-LIFE); or write the TRICARE Management Activity, Skyline 5, Suite 810; 5111 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3206.

“We want to ensure that our beneficiaries, some of whom are re-entering the Military Health System, and using TRICARE for the first time, have the best possible experience and receive their rightful benefits,” said Dr. William Winkenwerder, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. “We will do everything we can to overcome initial difficulties that may arise.”

TFL provides pharmacy benefits and TRICARE coverage secondary to Medicare. More than 3.1 million health care claims have been paid since the program started in October 2001.

Wargames from Page 1

TRADOC commander, began the seminar wargames last summer to speed up the Army Transformation process. All the commandants of the branch schools in TRADOC, as well as commanders and civilian leaders from around the Army, gather for each seminar wargame.

Friendly Blue Forces are given realistic capabilities against a capable and highly sophisticated Red Force. Red will only spend money on those things to exploit what he believes are Blue’s weaknesses, hoping to achieve niche overmatch.

The attendees work in separate groups to explore various aspects of future military operations. Work lasts well into the night, as participants research and refine their concepts. Then the findings from each group are put together in one overall conceptual picture aimed at requirements for the Objective Force.

The Army Transformation process is used to arrive at the Objective Force, which Army

Chief of Staff Eric K. Shinseki said in October 2001 must be achieved by 2010. What will make the Objective Force a reality is a revolutionary warfighting concept enabled by an embedded internetted digital communications net, the Future Combat System, unmanned aerial vehicles and new air and sealift capabilities.

That internetted capability is called C4ISR — command, control, computers communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Viewed as a system of systems, the FCS is envisioned as having greater lethality and personnel protection for soldiers than the current Abrams M1 tank. However, platforms will weight much less than the Abrams, and be more maneuverable over all types of terrain.

Over the past two years Army scientists and technologists determined advances in technology would permit fielding the FCS earlier than planned, with the first unit equipped by 2008.

Vane called the envisioned tactical forces “very, very capable.” However, they have yet to learn whether the force will still be organized as platoons, companies, battalions and brigades as today’s fighting forces. More efficient and lethal organizations may yet be devised.

“We spent the first three SWGs looking at the tactical level of action, which we know today as brigade and below,” Vane said. “Unlike the current force where we have heavy and light forces optimized for different extremes, we need a general purpose force that can execute offense, defense, stability and support operations, in all types of terrain and weather anywhere on the spectrum of conflict.”

He said results of TRADOC’s effort were presented to Shinseki last October, to include the Unit of Action Concept, the mission needs statement and the statement of required capabilities to support the FCS request for proposal that was released to contractors in November.

During the latest seminar wargame in early February, Vane said the participants carried out “a pretty exhaustive” research of literary works, after action reviews, lessons learned from recent operational experience, theoretical constructs of future environments, future Defense Department strategies and today’s joint concepts. They also explored emerging ideas about combined warfare and force design.

“We fully recognize future warfare will involve building consensus among our coalition partners, so the Objective Force must be fully interoperable with our allies. Likewise, all future operations will be inherently joint, with strong interdependence among the services, each of whom rely on the other services while providing unique capability to the combatant commanders,” Vane said.

“We also learned that our ideas about needing a higher operational level force that’s highly tailorable and modular are about right..”



Soldiers’ Lawyer

JAG answers reservists’ questions about legal assistance, provides services

**By Capt. Christian Deichert
Chief of Legal Assistance**

At the recent Army Family Action Plan Conference, an attendee who serves in the Army Reserves addressed some problems she had obtaining legal assistance from the Fort Huachuca Judge Advocate General office. There are various legal assistance resources that are available to reservists in the Fort Huachuca community.

First of all, if a reservist is called to active duty for 30 days or more, he or she is entitled to any of the available legal assistance services offered at the Fort Huachuca JAG office. Services include will walk-ins, powers of attorney and notarizations, appointments with attorneys, and emergency legal assistance.

Reservists are also entitled to take advantage of the Fort

Huachuca Tax Center, open from mid-January until April 15 each year in Building 21115 to assist in tax preparation and electronic filing.

Second, reservists who are preparing for mobilization are entitled to legal assistance services as available. If you are mobilizing, your reserve unit should coordinate with your supporting reserve component JAGs to make sure you are legally prepared. However, the Fort Huachuca JAG office stands ready to provide you with any pre-mobilization legal support you need if reserve JAGs are not available to assist you.

Third, if a reservist is on active duty for 29 days or less, he or she may be entitled to legal assistance from the Fort Huachuca JAG office in emergency situations on a walk-in basis. Emergency services are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and depend on whether or not an attorney is available to assist you.

Finally, and most importantly, reservists are always entitled to legal assistance from Reserve Component JAGs. Team 3 of the 75th Legal Support Organization is a local JAG reserve unit that normally drills here at Fort Huachuca.

Reservists who need legal assistance, whether they are drilling or not, can usually make appointments to see a reserve attorney during Team 3’s drill weekend through the Legal Assistance office at 533-2009. As of Feb. 28, Team 3 attorneys are available for appointments on the following drill weekends: April 13-14, June 8-9, July 13-14, Aug. 10-11 and Sept. 14-15.

As always, if you have any questions or legal issues, call 533-2009. We also have a great deal of information on our Web site, including our recently published legal guide for reservists. Click on <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/SJA/index.htm> for more information.

Youth Council hears juvenile misconduct cases; orders restitution, community service

JAG release

The Fort Huachuca Youth Council convened and adjudicated three cases of juvenile misconduct on Feb. 27. The cases occurred on post in January.

Two juveniles appeared before the Youth Council for shoplifting at the Main Post Exchange, and one juvenile appeared before the Youth Council for harassing fellow classmates after school.

The two shoplifting cases involved two 11-year old juveniles who had taken a Nintendo Gameboy and a wristwatch, with a total value of \$138.90, from the Post Exchange. The Youth Council ordered the juvenile who stood by and watch his friend take the Gameboy to pay \$100 in restitution, write an essay entitled, “What I should do when a friend tries to do something stupid,” and perform 10 hours of community service.

The Youth Council ordered the juvenile who actually took the

Gameboy and wristwatch to write a book review on the biography of a personal hero, prepare an essay on making right and wrong choices, tour the Cochise County Juvenile Detention Center, tour the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade Maintenance Training Department and perform 30 hours of community service.

In the third case, the Youth Council ordered the 13-year-old juvenile who harassed fellow classmates after school to tour the Cochise County Juvenile Detention Center, tour the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade Maintenance Training Department and perform 20 hours of community service.

In addition to the measures imposed by the Youth Council, the parents of each juvenile caught shoplifting had to pay the Post Exchange a civil fine equal to the value of the merchandise wrongfully taken plus \$100.

The Fort Huachuca Youth Council convenes monthly under the authority of Fort Huachuca Regulation 27-3, Youth Council,

to hear cases involving juvenile misconduct on Fort Huachuca.

In adjudicating juvenile misconduct, the Youth Council may impose rehabilitative measures such as curfew, suspension of privileges on Fort Huachuca, restitution, essays and community service. In exceptional cases, the Council may recommend that the installation commander bar the juvenile from post.

The Youth Council consists of representatives from the three brigades on post, the Garrison Commander’s Office, Smith Middle School, the Army Substance Abuse Program, the Provost Marshal, Army Community Service, Family Advocacy, Cochise County Juvenile Court Services, and the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

The Youth Council will meet again on March 20. Youth Council hearings are closed to the public to protect the juveniles’ confidentiality. For more information about the Youth Council, call the Youth Council Coordinator, Mick Douthit at 533-5313.

Have we got news for you!

Read it online, click on huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

New Johnston principal celebrates homecoming with better schooling

By Spc. Jessica Inigo
Scout Staff

It was a bit of a homecoming for Rick Morrison, as he walked into the doors of Colonel Johnston Elementary School after some thirty years - but this time he’s the one in charge.

Morrison wasn’t what you’d call a “good” student. He got below average grades and acted up quite a bit at what once was Col. Johnston Middle School.

These bad marks are now proudly displayed in Morrison’s office - the principal’s office.

Opposite those bad marks Morrison has a framed bachelor’s degree in administration, a framed master’s in educational leadership, and even a Phi Kappa Phi certificate for being part of the national honors society.

“Parents have to understand that even though children may not have the best grades now, that can change. I was a terrible student, but if you look at that wall you’ll see an enormous change,” he said.

Though Morrison calls Lewistown, Pa. home, he was raised all over the world as an “Army brat.” Having lived this lifestyle as a child, he said he understands what many of the military children have to go through with the constant change and moving.

“Personally, when ever I moved to a new school I always had to find where I fit in. Usually that ended up with the boys getting into a fight,” Morrison said.

Today Morrison hopes to prevent the new-kid-on-the-block-brawl by using a team approach to discipline - this includes the child, parent, teacher and any other school official to understand what may be going on in the child’s life.

Morrison has been teaching for 19 years as a mathematics teacher in public schools. He said he never imagined he’d return to Fort Huachuca, especially as a teacher or principal.

“My wife was offered a job in Sierra Vista in another school district, so I followed her down here,” he said. “I’ve always had fond memories of Fort Huachuca. I use to hunt in the Huachuca Mountains and hiked all over them. When I had the opportunity to come back I was really excited.”

Morrison first worked at Colonel Smith Middle School as a teacher when he came back to Fort Huachuca four years ago. It was a goal of Morrison’s to become a principal some day - and it finally came true this school year.

“It’s been a very busy and exciting year. It’s everything I hoped it would be,” Morrison said.

Now as Morrison has reached a pinnacle in his career and his wife, LeAnn, works as the personnel director of Fort Huachuca Schools, he said they are planning on staying at Fort Huachuca.

“I loved it when I lived here originally. My dad is retired military and settled down in Phoenix. I graduated high school in Arizona and attend a northern Arizona University. It’s wonderful here. It’s just like northern Arizona, only I have the mountains,” Morrison said.

“The people and staff I have here on Fort Huachuca are the best in the state. The parents are very active in their child’s education. The staff are concerned and work above and beyond any requirements they have. Teachers offer 100 percent effort. It’s a great school to be a principal at,” Morrison said.

Many staff members agree that Morrison has only changed



Photo by Spc. Jessica Inigo

Rick Morrison, Colonel Johnston Elementary principal, gave away basketball tickets and T-shirts to three lucky children. Tyler Campbell, 9, Leslie Fairley, 8, and not pictured, Michael Nugebt, 9 of Tom Wolfe’s class. This is “the fun part of the job,” Morrison said.

the school for the better.

“The thing I think he’s done for us is open the school up and let more of the community be active in it,” Henry Bos, third grade teacher, said. Morrison has implemented a parent, teacher, student organization and has been active in publishing newsletters, as well.

Mindy Lee, first grade teacher, said, “He’s very supportive. He wants to make a positive change and make a difference.”

Cochise College holds computer olympics, list student placements

Cochise College release

The annual Computer Olympics, conducted by the Cochise College and Southern Arizona Chapters of Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association were held Friday at Cochise Community College. A total of 12 middle and high schools and 290 students participated in 22 events. Students who placed in the top six ranks for each event were recognized for their accomplishments.

Winners from Smith Middle School, include:

George Colbert - 6th - Decision Making
Amanda Hazelmeyer - 4th - Word Processing Theory
Amanda Hazelmeyer - 5th - Word Processing
Evan Lake - 1st - PowerPoint Theory
Sarah Laszok - 3rd - Spreadsheets
Dan O’Keefe - 1st - Computer Fundamentals
Dan O’Keefe - 1st - Computer Keyboarding
Dan O’Keefe - 1st - Desktop Publishing

Theory
Shawn O’Keefe - 1st - Desktop Publishing
Shawn O’Keefe - 1st - Word Processing Theory
Shawn O’Keefe - 5th - PC Maintenance & Repair
Trey Palmer - 5th - Computer Keyboarding
Trey Palmer - 5th - PC Maintenance & Repair
David Thompson - 1st - Advanced Word

Processing
David Thompson - 5th - Professional Interview
David Thompson - 6th - Decision Making
Amber Watkins - 2nd - PowerPoint Theory
Amber Watkins - 4th - Word Processing
Boris Williams - 3rd - Computer Keyboarding
Boris Williams - 6th - PowerPoint
Erin Willis - 1st - PowerPoint
Erin Willis - 3rd - PowerPoint Theory
Erin Willis - 6th - Computer Keyboarding

Chalk Talk

General Myer Elementary School

Priscilla Mendoza’s fourth-grade class recently hosted special guest Angela Jones. In conjunction with Black History Month and an in-depth historical study of the Underground Railroad, Jones portrayed Miss Harriet Tubman enlightening the students with a retelling of her life as a slave on a southern plantation and as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Jones, an American history major and a teacher at Smith Middle School, performed a superb character portrayal that had the fourth-graders riveted to their seats for over an hour.

Mendoza’s students have been reading “Freedom Train,” the biography of Tubman’s life and her challenges. The students will



Myer School Photo

Special guest Angela Jones portraying Harriet Tubman for Priscilla Mendoza’s fourth grade class.

culminate their study by performing skits from scenes of the biography using handmade puppets and stage sets.

Last week, Shelby Calvert, from the same class, was awarded 1st place in the fourth-grade category, in the African American History Month “My Favorite African American” essay contest. For her research and essay on Madam C.J. Walker, Shelby won \$25 presented by the Sierra Vista City Council during the Ethel Berger Center festivities Feb. 23.

The Resource Room students have been working hard in Terri Aguon’s and Bonnie Austin’s classes. They work on reading, math and written language at individual, instructional levels. Ideally, each student will make a years growth in the subjects they receive special services for.

Sonna McQuerry’s kindergartners will begin March by attending a Mad Science Assembly and continue being scientific by predicting, observing and recording. Look for their class at Veteran’s Memorial Park later this month. This class heard that the Easter Bunny will be visiting them there.

Allison Spencer’s and Julie Parrish’s classes, along with student teacher, Joy Mims, went to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum as part of their study of Arizona. Spencer’s students have now studied the letters A through U. They are reading mini books that the children can take home and keep.

Betty Davis’ class is excited about starting their studies of plants and insects. They plan to make a Sunflower House reading center, so that the students will be surrounded by sunflowers, while they read and learn more about plants and insects.

Panther Band Concert will be March 13 at Smith Middle

School at 7 p.m. Panther Band Concert will be at Myer School on March 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Suzanne Buchanan’s kindergarten class is working on the letter U. For Dr. Seuss’ birthday, they will wear Dr. Seuss hats they made.

Libby Romines’ and Theresa Sottilatre’s preschool classes are starting off the month of March by celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday with Pam Jordan reading to the students with a surprise visit from The Cat in the Hat. They will then have a ‘green week’ by making shimmering shamrocks, green shaving cream and a green collage.

Cochise Youth Classic Run will be held March 16 at Veteran’s Memorial Park in Sierra Vista.

Myer School is very proud of their students who took part in the Arizona Fifth- and Sixth-Grade Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl. They came in 1st Place for the whole state of Arizona. This is a contest the students did with the computer. Team members were Daniel Booher, David Arquette, Sarah Hazelmeyer,



Photo by Angelica Pequeño

The Cat in the Hat was greeted with big smiles by Joy Mims’ and teacher assistant Julie Parrish’s kindergarten class, shown here.

Brenon Church, Kristen Hankinson, and L.J. Miser. Audrey Mapoles, a fifth-grade teacher, worked with them on this project.

Students of the Month for February are: Amanda Hatfield, Jessic Patterson, Kendra Pleas, Shelby Calvert, Megan Kramer, Darneshia Eddings, Ash Drake, Marjon Janis, Ayzha Martin, Stephanie Harrell, Morgan O’Connor and Josh Baxter. One student from each class is selected each month who have shown good skills on the focus of the month; February was Problem Solving. The focus for March is Friendship.

Kim Tomlin and her fifth-grade class is very happy to announce that one of the students, **Daniel Booher, came in second place for the County Spelling Bee!** Daniel was caught on the word “panegyric.” Jessie Gunsch, an eighth-grade home schooled student was the winner.

Maureen Brady’s fourth-graders have been working on a Southwestern Unit. They have created pastel pueblo pictures, Mexican clay sun faces and sand paintings. Brady’s fifth-graders are working on a print making unit. They created genre scenes on form board printing plates which they wrote Haiku poems about.

The library hosted its third annual Dr. Seuss celebration this week. The week started out with a trivia question every morning. On Feb. 28, the Cat in the Hat arrived aboard a fire

truck driven by Station 1 of the Fort Huachuca Fire Department. The Student Council from Smith Middle School dresses as different storybook characters and read to the Kindergarten classes.

On Friday we had over 20 guest readers reading to different classes. Some of the many readers included Col. Michael Boardman, Lt. Col. Eileen Ahearn, Dr. LeAnn Morrison, Marty Marks, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Voss, and Margaret and Elizabeth Houck. All of this is in connection with Read Across America. Marsha Hamric and Missy Hernandez were in charge of putting this event on.

Magellan Running Club: Top fourth-grade girl was Alice Cadogan from Lynn Tompkin’s room with 35 points. Top fourth-grade boy as Chris Nugent from Tom Crawford’s room with 433 points. Top fourth-grade class was Tompkin’s room with 433 points. Top fifth-grade boy was Jerel Wherry from Bonnie Burleson’s room with 64 points. Top fifth-grade class was Burleson’s room with 663 points. Last week Myer students ran 936 miles with a total of 20,647 miles for the year.

Colonel Johnston Elementary School

The Students of the Week for Feb. 25 - March 1 are: Markevias Reynolds, Christopher Staggars, William Davis, Eric Brackin, Luke Montovan, Adriana Roper, Britney Williams and James Gray.

The Students of the Week for March 4-8 are: Cheryl Wright, Jre’ Shawn McGee, Jessica Irwin, Hannah Worden, Haali Hale, Steven Fierro, Luis Martinez, Jamir Ulmer, Jadicella Clemente, Morgan Jump and Brittany Gross.



Colonel Johnston photo

The Smith Middle School students visited Colonel Johnston elementary and read to the third graders.

Ginger Volkman’s third-grade class was fortunate to receive several very special guest presenters into the classroom during February. Counting money took on new relevance as Michelle Jacobson, our banking consultant from Compass Bank, taught checkbook record-keeping skills. The students excitedly opened their “mock” accounts, made deposits and withdrawals, and wrote checks to their best friends.

What do literature, art and essays have in common? Inspired by their self-portrait, connections were drawn across the subject areas to heighten students’ interest to write autobiographical es-

See Chalk Talk, Page 10

Chalk Talk from Page 9

says. The Johnston Elementary School principal encouraged students to express their own creativity as he modeled the “formula,” using estimation and proportion, for drawing a portrait.

Did you know that the “blues” style of music originated in Mali, Africa and was part of the African culture brought to the Mississippi River Delta? In recognition of African-American History Month, students geographically and topically highlighted 500 years of African-American history through music, literature and biographies of great Americans who contributed to the global advancement of Civil Rights and enrichment of culture.

James Thomas, Johnston Elementary School head custodian, shared personal experiences which caused students to seriously reflect and respond to his insight into the struggles of the African-American person living in the United

States of America during the 1950’s-1970’s.

In addition, Marilyn Volkman, Buena High School art student, demonstrated perspective and organization of ideas to visually convey a theme on a mural. Students painted murals of folktale scenes that currently brighten the halls as the entire school anticipates the visit of Robert San Souci, Johnston Elementary’s guest author.

The school thanks the Fort Huachuca fire department, who joined the students for “green eggs and ham” in response to the fire alarm going off at 6:10 a.m.

The Smith Middle School students visited a third grade class last on Feb. 28 to read to students. They came dressed as different fairy tale characters in honor of Dr. Suess’s birthday. Every year they visit Johnston Elementary to read to the students and then they donate the books they read to the school library.

Fort Huachuca music director earns educator of the month award

*By Robert J. Hebert
Scout Staff*

Sierra Vista Sunrise Rotary has an ongoing program to recognize an outstanding Educator of the Month. On Feb. 27 at 6:30 am, Rotary recognized two exemplary educators, including Dan Howdeshell, Fort Huachuca Panther Band music director.

Howdeshell was named the Educator of the Month for January. Casey O’Brien, principal of Smith Middle School, and Bill Hansen, president of Sierra Vista Sunrise Rotary presented Howdeshell with his award.

The Panther Band program at Fort Huachuca Accommodation School District is unique in design and implementation. It is a program that Howdeshell has devoted twenty



years into creating.

Students are required to memorize “The Star Spangled Banner”, nine major scales, four harmonic minor scales and the chromatic scale.

Since Howdeshell has entered the band into this competition the Panthers have received four Excellent ratings, eleven Superior ratings and two Superior with distinction, the highest possible rating-usually reserved for select high schools. In the 20 years the Panther Band has performed in the Sierra Vista Holiday Parade they have been awarded nine first place trophies. This is a very impressive record when one considers the fact that they are competing against high school marching bands and the Fort Huachuca Army Band.